



March 2004

Citizen Corps Score

Phone (317) 233-4273

Fax (317) 233-5660

A Monthly Publication for Indiana
Citizen Corps Councils, their Partners
and Affiliates

National Update- Summary of 2003 Accomplishments

Citizen Corps and its programs have grown dramatically since its inception. During 2002, there were only six State councils; there are now 51 State and Territorial councils and more than 900 active local councils, with more forming every week. These councils currently include 121,409,331 people or 42 percent of the total U.S. population. Growth during the past year is the result of the support of Citizen Corps partners and affiliates and thousands of advocates throughout the country.

Citizen Corps proudly welcomed 14 new affiliates during 2003. In addition to the National Fire Protection Association, which signed its Affiliate Agreement with Citizen Corps on October 11, 2002, the following agencies and organizations have joined Citizen Corps as affiliates, signaling their strong support as partners in homeland security across America:

Save A Life Foundation (January 23, 2003)

The U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce (March 8, 2003)

The National Volunteer Fire Council (March 28, 2003)

National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (May 16, 2003)

Points of Light Foundation (June 8, 2003)

National Safety Council (June 10, 2003)

American Radio Relay League (June 21, 2003)
The American Red Cross (July 29, 2003)
Environmental Protection Agency, Local
Emergency Planning Committees (July 29, 2003)
Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration (July 29, 2003)
Department of Education, Office of Safe and
Drug-Free Schools (July 29, 2003)
Civil Air Patrol (August 26, 2003)
Veterans of Foreign Wars (August 27, 2003)
National Crime Prevention Council (October 14,
2003)

The Office of Domestic Preparedness, within the Department of Homeland Security, will now be called the Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness. This change will help state and local government by providing a single point of contact for preparedness grants.

Neighborhood Watch Outreach Programs (NW) - Vision for the Future

To usher in this new era of Neighborhood Watch, the National Sheriffs' Association (NSA) appointed a new Project Director, Eric Schultz. "First and foremost, we will build upon the success of the "MEET the Challenge" campaign and set our focus on registering even more Watch Groups across the country as well as updating information on pre-existing Watch Groups," explained Schultz. "By doing this, we will have a better understanding of how many programs are out there and in what communities they serve." Working hand in hand with the Justice Department on this effort, Schultz's primary objective is to foster a stronger partnership between Neighborhood Watch and the FEMA-initiated CERT program. In addition, Schultz will concentrate efforts on launching several new outreach programs in 2004. Perhaps the most crucial of these is a program based on corporate initiatives, which is intended to promote Neighborhood Watch and Business Watch to corporate America and local businesses and to encourage them to get involved. Schultz plans to build upon existing relationships with the business world, which includes partnerships with such corporations as Radio Shack and Motorola. Other programs Schultz intends to introduce in 2004 include the Awards Program and Mentoring Program.

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) - We Need You!

Since September 11, 2001, the demands on state and local law enforcement have increased dramatically. As a result, the already limited resources of these agencies are being stretched further than ever, at a time when the country needs every available officer out on the beat. In many jurisdictions around the country, volunteers in the community have offered their time and skills services to law enforcement agencies. These citizen volunteers help supplement and support officers and civilian personnel by allowing them to concentrate on their primary duties. Volunteer roles may include performing clerical tasks, serving as an extra set of "eyes and ears," assisting with search and rescue activities, and writing citations for accessible parking violations. Below is a list of VIPS programs around the state of Indiana:

Agency Name, City, State

Fort Wayne Police Department, Fort Wayne, IN
 Galveston Police Department, Galveston, IN
 Indianapolis Police Department, Indianapolis, IN
 Midwest Search Dog,s Lebanon, IN
 Milltown Police Department, Milltown, IN
 Noblesville Police Department, Noblesville, IN
 South Bend Police Department, South Bend, IN

If you would like to start a VIPS program in your area, you will find the following links are a good place to start.

<http://www.policevolunteers.org/volunteer/faq.htm#010>

<http://www.policevolunteers.org/resources/>

Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T)- Know Your Limitations

The best source of help in an emergency or disaster is the paid or volunteer professional responder. But, if they are not available to address immediate life-saving needs or to protect property, CERT members can help. CERTs are not intended to replace a community's response capability, but rather, to serve as an important supplement to it. CERT members must keep their safety in mind as their first priority. CERT volunteers must know their capabilities and the limitations of their training and equipment and work within those limitations.

CERTs do not:

- Suppress large fires.

- Enter structures that they consider heavily damaged and dangerous (e. g., leaning or moved from foundation).
- Perform hazardous materials cleanup or respond to incidents involving radiological, chemical, or biological agents.
- Perform medical, fire, or search and rescue operations beyond their level of training.
- Activate or deploy unless called for in their procedures.

CERTs are considered "Good Samaritans" and covered under the Volunteer Protection Act. CERT volunteers do not have any authority beyond serving as "Good Samaritan" when helping others.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) - Roles

The community-based volunteer MRC units are intended to supplement existing community emergency medical response systems as well as contribute to meeting the public health needs of the community throughout the year.

All states and localities have established emergency operating plans and procedures. These may vary in completeness or complexity, but generally there is a procedure in place that the first responder community and local leaders follow. MRC volunteers may be able to fill gaps in expertise or to provide support to health care officials and existing facilities.

During emergencies, MRC volunteers may also provide an important "surge" capability to perform some functions usually performed by emergency health staff who have been mobilized. They can assist with developing plans for vector control, animal care during disasters, distribution of pharmaceuticals, and provide numerous tasks to help a community deal with public health issues when there is a shortage of regular health care providers or health care support staff.

National Weather Service (NWS) - Tornado/Severe Storm Spotter Training

A great way for volunteers to get involved in their community and perform a great public service to help save lives and protect property is by volunteering to be a Tornado/Severe Storm Spotter. Spotter training is normally conducted by NWS in late winter - early spring. Schedules of training dates can be found

on the NWS web sites below:

Chicago IL- northwest Indiana www.crh.noaa.gov/lot

North Webster - northern Indiana www.crh.noaa.gov/iwx

Indianapolis - central Indiana www.crh.noaa.gov/ind

Paducah - southwest Indiana www.crh.noaa.gov/pah

Louisville - south central Indiana www.crh.noaa.gov/lmk

Wilmington OH - southeast Indiana www.erh.noaa.gov/iln

Local Council Updates

Scott County hosted a C.E.R.T Train-the-Trainer February 20, 21 and 25. Spencer County completed its C.E.R.T requirements to receive over \$2,000 more for advertisement, training, and equipment. Porter County Valparaiso community schools has the first certified Students' Emergency Response Team (S.E.R.T.) in Indiana, they have also graduated 7 more C.E.R.T members. Two more additional classes are scheduled; Three Sundays in a row for the twelve members of the Ham Radio Group and a three-hour a week, 7 week long course with 11 individuals signed up. Tippecanoe County new Citizen Corps brochure, and "adopted" a retired ambulance to use as a traveling billboard. The ambulance will be equipped with brochures, backpacks, etc. Laporte County has been conducting free CPR and Emergency First Aid courses; with classes for Sheltering Management and Operation set for March. Laporte county is also looking to distribute the READY CARD countywide.

Publications/Resources

Effective Emergency Response Plans <http://www.nsc.org/issues/emerg/99esc.htm>

Basic Safety & Security Checkpoints For Public & Commercial Buildings
<http://www.nsc.org/public/library/basicsaf.doc>

Upcoming Events

March is National Nutrition Month
March is National Women's History Month
March is American Red Cross Month
March 03, 2004 National Anthem Day
March 07, 2004 Peace Corps Day
March 10, 2004 Nutrition Awareness Day
March 21, 2004 First Day of Spring (Vernal Equinox)

Window Safety Tips

- When performing spring repairs, take care to make sure that your windows are not painted or nailed shut. You must be able to open them to escape in an emergency.
- Some homes may have window guards, security bars, grilles or grates already covering their windows. Those windows are useless in an emergency if the devices on them do not have a functioning release mechanism. Time is critical when escaping a fire.
- The degree of injury sustained from a window fall can be affected by the surface on which the victim falls. Shrubs and soft edging like wood chips or grass beneath windows may lessen the impact if a fall does occur.

Keep in Touch!

ICCSV Staff

Phone E-mail

Brandy Wood, Senior Program Officer (317) 233-0901 bwood@dwd.state.in.us

Bradley Woodlee, Citizen Corps Intern (317) 233-0902 bwoodlee@dwd.state.in.us

The Citizen Corps Score is a monthly publication of the Indiana Citizen Corps Council (INCCC). To be added or removed from the distribution list, please contact the ICCSV via electronic mail at <mailto:iccsv@state.in.us>.